

Abstract

Backpressure information is communicated from a physical layer device to a link layer device in a communication system by generating a flow control message in the physical layer device responsive to a detected condition relating to at least a given one of a plurality of queues of the
5 physical layer device, and transmitting the flow control message from the physical layer device to the link layer device. The flow control message may comprises backpressure information associated with a given egress queue of the physical layer device and is transmitted from the physical layer device to the link layer device as an in-band message over an interface between the physical layer device and the link layer device. Multiple-rate traffic shaping or other types of traffic shaping may
10 be provided responsive to the flow control message.